9th July, 1991 about the destruction of trees and shrubs on the ridges coming under the Delhi Administration and thereby damaging their forest character;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action is being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) While looking at the threat to the Ridge, Ministry of Urban Development has recently constituted a Committee comprising members from different organisations for proper survey and demarcation of Ridge area and to fix responsibility for preservation and conservation of forest and environment of the Ridge. The Committee will suggest nesessary steps for identification and removal of encroachments, if any, and will prepare an Action Plan which will include afforestation, beautification and preservation of areas as a Reserve Forest in the Ridge and which will make its long term management as Reserve Forest under the aegis of the Forest Department/Ministry of Environment & Forests possible.

Reservation of seats for states for course in Institute for physically Handicapped, New Delhi

1234. SHRI KHYOMO LOTHA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are six seats reserved in the course of B.Sc. (Hons.) Physio Theraphy and Occupational in the Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi for the candidates belonging to the States where similar teaching facilities are not available; and

(b) if so, what are the names of the States where similar teaching facilities are not available, names of the States which have sponsored the nominations of their candidates, total number of nominations which have been received by the Institute till date, criteria of the selection among the nominees and names of the candidates who have been selected against the said reserved seats?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) According to available information similar teaching facilities are not available in the following States/UTs:

State

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Arunachal Pradesh
3. Assam
4. Goa
5. Haryana
6. Himachal Pradesh
7. Jammu & Kashmir
8. Karnataka
9. Kerala
10. Madhya Pradesh
11. Manipur
12. Meghalaya
13. Mizoram
14. Nagaland
15. Punjab
16. Sikkim
17. Tripura
18. Uttar Pradesh

Union Territories

1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands
2. Chandigarh
3. Dadra & Nagar Haveli
4. Daman and Diu
5. Lakshadweep
6. Pandicherry

(ii) The State of Manipur and Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands sponsored candidates for B. Sc. (Hon) PT|OT courses in the Institute for Physically Handicapped for the academic year 1990-91. The States of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Karnataka and Nagaland have sponsored candidates for B.Ss. (Hons) PT/OT courses in Institute for the Physically Handicapped for the academic year 1991-92.

(iii) Total number of nominations received by Institute for the Physically Handicaped since inception of the course in 1990-91 and for 1991-92 are as under:—

1990-91	9	
1991-92	5	(including 3 applications received directly by IPH).

(iv) Besides the minimum requirement relating to age, educational qualifications, marks obtained in the subjects of Chemistry, Physics, Biology and English, the selection is made on merit on the basis of results of a written Entrance Test

(v) The following candidates were selected against the reserved seats in the year 1990-91 in IPH:

Physiotherapy

1. Ms. Heikrujam Joybi Devi, Imphal

2. Ms. Raj Kum. Pushpa Rani Devi, Manipur.

3. Ms. W. Ranita Devi, Manipur.

Occupational Therapy

1. Mr. Bhanu Prakash Mishra, South Andaman.

The process of selection for the academic yéar 1991-92 is not yet complete.

Modernisation fund for Textile Mills

1235. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether of the modernisation fund for the textile mills has been increased from Rs. 750 crores to Rs. 1500 crores;

(b) if so, when this decision was taken by Government and what were the considerations therefor; and

(c) what are the terms under which modernisation fund is made available to the mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Textiles has suggested that the Textile Modernisation Fund should be increased from Rs. 750 crores in the Seventh Plan to Rs. 1500 crores in the Eighth Paln. The assistance under the Fund Scheme is available to weak but viable units as well as to healthy units for upgradation of technology. The assistance is need-based and no minimum or maximum limit is prescribed for individual loans. However, it is expected that 25 per cent of the fund i.e. Rs: 190 crores will be utilised for providing modernisation assistance to healthy units on the usual terms applicable for such loans. Besides, the Scheme provides for special loan carrying concessional interest to weak but viable units to enable them to meet a part of the promoters contribution. Modernisation loans presently carry interest at 14 per cent per annum during implementation of the scheme or two years from the date of sanction whichever is earlier and 15 per cent per annum thereafter, while the special loans carry interest at 6 per cent per annum.

Representations received from Naidubrolu Weavers Co-operative Society

1236. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a letter from the Naidubrolu Weavers Co-operative Production and Sale Society Limited in Andhra Pradesh regarding the supply of sub-